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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/551,850	11/27/2006	Rune Haug	037960.002	6186

7590 11/12/2009
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Houston, TX 77208-1389

EXAMINER

EVANS, EBONY E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3644

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/551,850	Applicant(s) HAUG, RUNE	
	Examiner EBONY EVANS	Art Unit 3644	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 November 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 November 2006 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: 31.
2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p) (4) because reference character “22” has been used to designate both pump (pg. 4 line 1) and boat (fig. 2).
3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p) (4) because reference character “23” has been used to designate both pump (pg. 4 line 10), outlet opening (pg. 4, line 5) and boat (fig. 1).

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

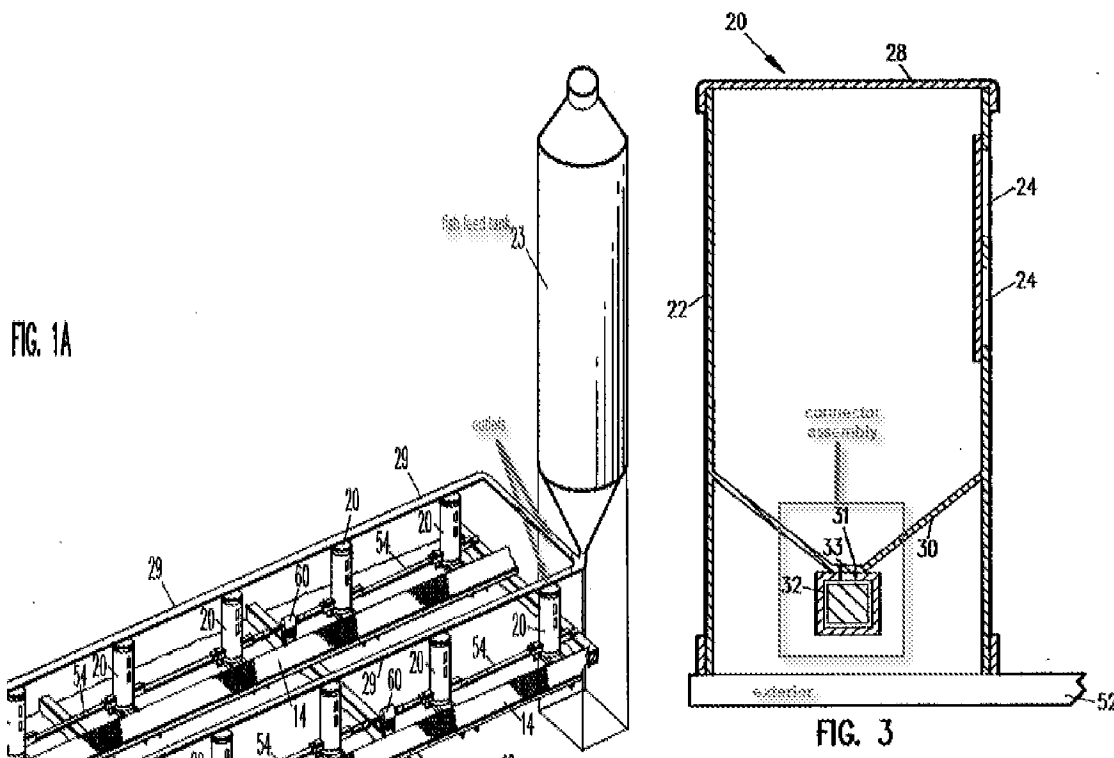
1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(B) as being anticipated by Huddleston et al. (US Patent 4972802 hereinafter Huddleston '802).

3. In re to claim 1, Huddleston '802 disclose a device for distributing fish feed to multiple fish receptacles in a fish fanning plant comprising: at least one fish feed tank (23) having a plurality of outlets (fig. 1a); an individually controllable pump (90) arranged at each of the outlets for fish feed; and a conduit (54) extending from each of the pumps, each of the conduits being connected to a connector assembly (fig. 3) at the exterior (fig. 3) of the device, for communicating with each fish receptacle.



4. In re to claim 2, Huddleston '802 disclose a device according to claim 1, wherein the pumps (90) are arranged, to be individually controlled for supplying the fish receptacles with individually determined quantities of fish feed (col. 10, lines 62-68).

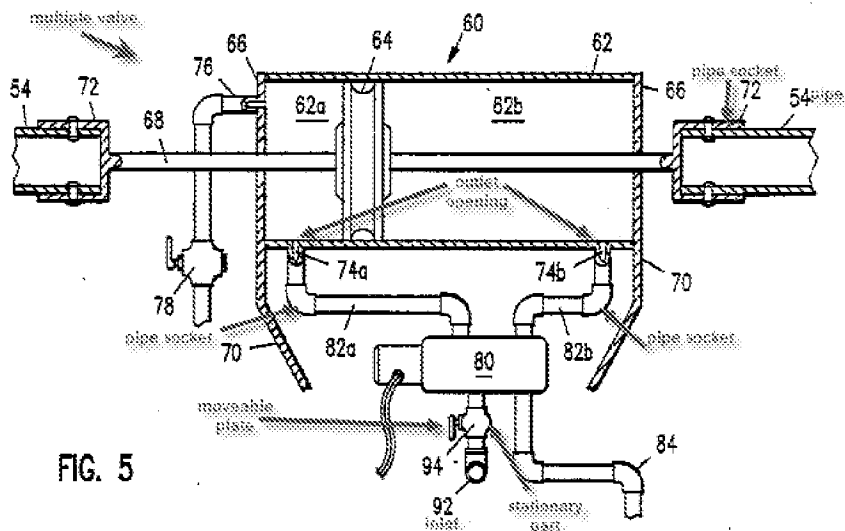
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5. In re to claim 3, Huddleston '802 disclose the device according to claim 1, further comprising: a multiple valve (80) having a stationary part (94) with at least two parallel rows of outlet openings (fig. 5) and a movable part (95) with a row of inlet openings, the moveable part (95) being movable between an open and a closed position relative to the openings in the stationary part (col. 10, lines 67-68);

- the rows of outlet openings being perpendicular to the direction of movement of the moveable part (fig. 5), each outlet opening (74a and 74b) having a pipe socket for connection to a conduit supplying fish feed to a fish receptacle; and

- the movable part being a plate containing the row of inlet openings that corresponds with the rows of outlet openings (74a, 74b), the movable plate being arranged for the rows of outlet openings being perpendicular to the direction of movement of the moveable part, each outlet opening having a pipe socket for connection to a conduit supplying fish feed to a fish receptacle, and

- the movable part (fig. 5) being a plate containing the row of inlet openings (92) that corresponds with the rows of outlet openings (74a, 74b), the movable plate being arranged for sliding movement on the stationary part (fig. 5) between a position wherein one of the rows of outlet openings is aligned with the corresponding openings in the row of inlet openings, and a position in which the openings in the other row of outlet openings are aligned with the corresponding openings in the row of inlet openings (fig. 5, inlet and outlet openings are parallel, therefore they are aligned).



6. In re to claim 4, Huddleston '802 discloses the device according to claims 3, wherein each of the inlet openings (92) has a tube pipe socket, each tube pipe socket being connected to one of the conduits leading to one of the pumps (fig. 5).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US Patent 4492182 teaches a method and device for feeding animals, particularly fish, comprise supply of food into a conduit by a food supply member. The food is transported in the conduit to feed locations by a fluid flow. US Patent 4213421 teaches a method of and installation for breeding sea-water creatures in tanks according to which algae and plankton species forming a preferred food of the sea-water creatures to be bred are grown in feed tanks while the salt content of the water in the feed tanks is adjusted by controlling the sea-water supply to the feed tanks in conformity with the evaporation taking place in the feed

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tanks. US Patent 3757739 teaches an isolation aquarium consisting of a housing carrying a plurality of tanks detachably mounted, a filter case detachably mounted in the housing for each of the tanks, a system powered by compressed air for constantly withdrawing water from each of the tanks, circulating it through its associated filter and returning it to the tank. US Patent 4051690 teaches a continuous output brine freezing system is disclosed particularly applicable to the freezing of large fish such as tuna on board fishing vessels. The vessels include a series of fish freezing tanks within which the large fish, after being encapsulated in plastic bags and vacuum sealed, are loaded and frozen in sequence.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to EBONY EVANS whose telephone number is (571)270-1157. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T 8-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Mansen can be reached on 571-272-6608. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael R Mansen/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3644

/E. E./
Examiner, Art Unit 3644